



Claim Amendments

Double Bracketed (5 words or less) and/or Strikeout - Additions Underlined

Original; Currently Amended; Canceled; Previously Presented; New; Not Entered; Withdrawn

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A parachute, comprising:

a circularly shaped canopy having a skirt band; and

a plurality of main suspension lines connected to the skirt band;

wherein each main suspension line includes a lower main suspension line segment that branches into ~~[[at least]]~~ two upper main suspension line segments; ~~[[and]]~~

wherein the upper main suspension line segments of each main suspension line are connected to the skirt ~~[[ban.]]~~ band;

wherein the main suspension lines include branch junctions such that each main suspension line includes a respective one of the branch junctions at which the lower main suspension line segment branches into the two upper main suspension line segments; and

wherein the lower main suspension line segments converge downwardly to a suspension line junction.

Claim 2. (Previously Amended) A parachute as recited in claim 1, wherein the upper main suspension line segments have a common length.

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Original) A parachute as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
a vent band on the circularly shaped canopy; and
a plurality of vent suspension lines connected to the vent band;
wherein each vent suspension line includes a lower vent suspension line segment that branches into at least two upper vent suspension line segments.

Claim 5. (Original) A parachute as recited in claim 4, wherein the parachute includes ten vent suspension lines having ten lower vent suspension line segments and twenty upper vent suspension line segments.

Claim 6. (Original) A parachute as recited in claim 5, wherein with the canopy descending vertically and fully inflated, the ten vent suspension lines converge downwardly from the vent band toward a vent centerline.

Claim 7. (Original) A parachute as recited in claim 1, further comprising means for slowing the opening of the canopy, including a generally planar reefing device defining a plurality of openings through which the main suspension lines extend.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A parachute, comprising:

a circularly shaped canopy having a skirt band and a vent band;

a plurality of ten main suspension lines connected to the skirt band, each main suspension line including a lower main suspension line segment that branches into [[at least]] two upper main suspension line segments, said ten main suspension lines extending from the skirt band to a suspension line junction; and

a plurality of vent suspension lines connected to the vent band, each vent suspension line including a lower vent suspension line segment that branches into at least two upper vent suspension line segments, said ten vent suspension lines extending from the vent band to a vent centerline that extends to the suspension line junction;

wherein the upper main suspension line segments of each main suspension line are connected to the skirt [[ban; and]] band;

wherein the upper vent suspension line segments of each vent suspension line are connected to the vent [[ban.]] band;

wherein the main suspension lines include branch junctions such that each main suspension line includes a respective one of the branch junctions at which the lower main suspension line segment branches into the two upper main suspension line segments; and

wherein the lower main suspension line segments converge downwardly to a suspension line junction.

Claim 9. (Original) A parachute as recited in claim 8, further comprising means for slowing the opening of the canopy, including a generally planar reefing device defining a plurality of openings through which the main suspension lines extend.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) A reefing device for slowing the opening of the canopy of a parachute having a plurality of main suspension lines, the reefing device comprising:

five strip segments that are arranged in a five-point star configuration having five strip segment junctions uniformly spaced apart; and

five eyelets, each of the eyelets extending through a respective one of the five strip segment junctions to form five suspension-line-receiving openings.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) A reefing device as recited in claim 10, wherein the strip segments are portions of a nylon strap that is folded into the five strip segments.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn) A reefing device as recited in claim 10, wherein the five strip segments are of uniform length.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A parachute, comprising:

a circularly shaped canopy having a skirt band; and

a plurality of main suspension lines connected to the skirt band;

wherein each main suspension line includes a lower main suspension line segment that branches into [[at least]] two upper main suspension line segments;

wherein the upper main suspension line segments of each main suspension line are connected to the skirt [[ban; and]] band;

wherein the main suspension lines include branch junctions such that each main suspension line includes a respective one of the branch junctions at which the lower main suspension line segment branches into the two upper main suspension line segments;

wherein the lower main suspension line segments converge downwardly to a suspension line junction; and

wherein the lower suspension line segment is at least partially composed of a first material and the two upper main suspension line segments are at least partially composed of a second material that is dissimilar to the first material.

Claim 14. (Original) A parachute as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

- a vent band on the circularly shaped canopy; and
- a plurality of vent suspension lines connected to the vent band;

wherein each vent suspension line includes a lower vent suspension line segment that branches into at least two upper vent suspension line segments;

and

wherein the lower vent suspension line segment is at least partially composed of a first material and the two upper vent suspension line segments are at least partially composed of a second material that is dissimilar to the first material.